

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06513 031316Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9884

S E C R E T MOSCOW 06513

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 84802

1. AS REPORTED IN MOSCOW 6472, HOPKINS HAS AGREED NOT TO FILE THE Q AND A'S TO WHICH YOU TOOK EXCEPTION. I AM, HOWEVER, CURIOUS AS TO WHY YOU FOUND MY ANSWER ON A POSSIBLE SUMMIT MEETING "UNBALANCED." MY COMMENTS WERE BASED ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY BOTH PARTIES, AND IN PARTICULAR ON MY DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WITH BREZHNEV. IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED IN RECENT WEEKS TO CHANGE THE PICTURE, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT I BE INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

2. REGARDING THE SECOND Q AND A ON SHCHARANSKY, I BELIEVE THE CONTEXT MAKES CLEAR THAT I WAS NOT REFERRING TO FORMAL CHARGES AT A TRIAL, BUT TO CHARGES LEVELED IN THE PRESS. THE QUESTION WAS WHY THE SHCHARANSKY CASE IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AS COMPARED WITH OTHER DISSIDENT CASES. THIS IS, IN MY VIEW, A LEGITIMATE QUESTION AND I FRANKLY DO NOT SEE HOW ONE CAN EXPLAIN THE INTENSITY OF U.S. INTEREST IN SHCHARANSKY AS COMPARED WITH GINSBURG AND ORLOV WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT SHCHARANSKY FACES MORE SERIOUS CHARGES THAN THE OTHERS.

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3. AS A GENERAL OBSERVATION, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT WITH THE SPATE OF RECENT ARTICLES IN THE SOVIET PRESS AND STATEMENTS ON RADIO AND TV EXCLUSIVELY BLAMING US FOR THE CURRENT MALAISE IN OUR RELATIONS, DELAY IN SALT, DEVIATION FROM AGREED PRINCIPLES ON THE MIDDLE EAST, ETC. IT IS HIGH TIME TO PUT OUR CASE TO THE SOVIET PUBLIC. SINCE MY ACCESS TO SOVIET MEDIA IS SOMEWHAT INHIBITED,

VOA I FEEL IS THE BEST CHANNEL. TOON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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